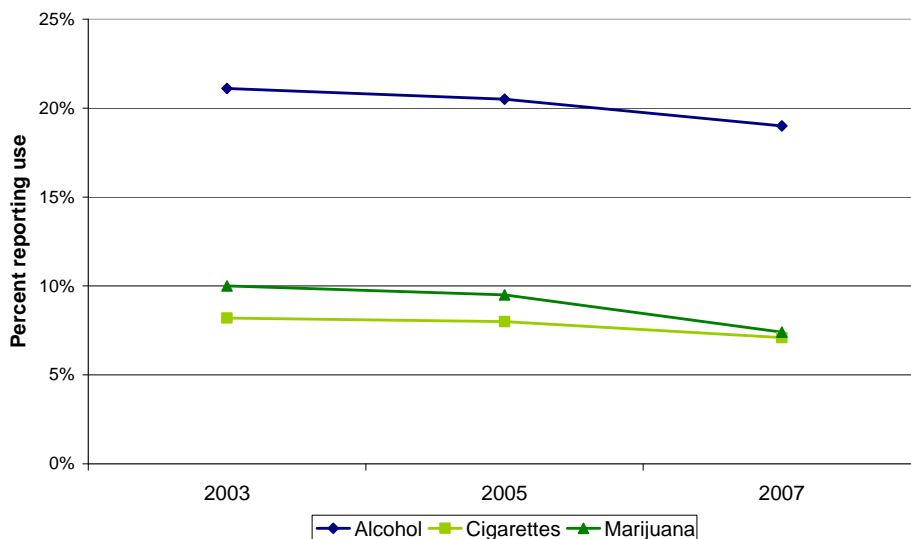


## Alcohol Related Motor Vehicle Crash Morbidity and Mortality in Utah

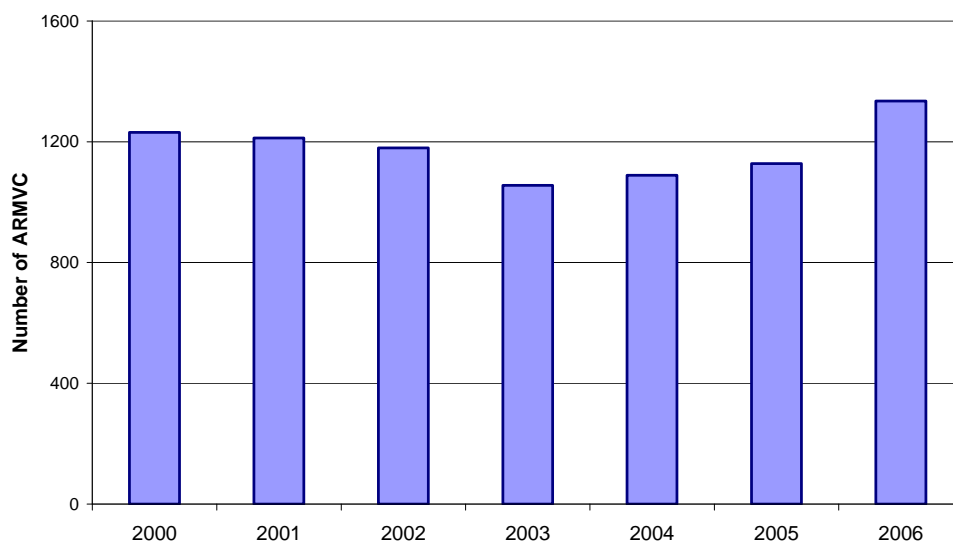
Utah is fortunate to experience low alcohol use and low rates of alcohol related consequences compared to the nation. However, alcohol use and related consequences remain very important issues for prevention in Utah because alcohol is the most heavily used substance among both youth and adults in the state. Consistent with the relatively heavy use of alcohol in the state vs. other substances, reducing alcohol related mortality and morbidity are serious goals for Utah's prevention efforts. As seen in Figure 1, alcohol use among Utah 12<sup>th</sup> graders (in the past 30 days) was higher than both cigarette and marijuana use combined from 2003-05<sup>1</sup>.

**Figure 1. Percentage of 12th Graders Reporting Use of Alcohol, Cigarettes and Marijuana in the Past 30 Days**



Alcohol use is associated with a myriad of health related, economic and social consequences. From 2000-2006, the number of ARMVCs resulting in injury or death has averaged nearly 1200 per year.

**Figure 2. Alcohol Related Motor Vehicle Crashes (ARMVC) Resulting in Injury or Death 2000-2006**



<sup>1</sup> Utah Student Health and Risk Protection (SHARP) Survey

## **Alcohol Related Motor Vehicle Crash Morbidity and Mortality in Utah**

### **Quick Facts:**

- Among Utah youth grades 8, 10 and 12, alcohol use was reported at more than twice the rate of any other substance in 2007<sup>2</sup>.
- Binge drinking among youth increases dramatically with age. In 2007, 5.1% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders reported binge drinking in the past 2 weeks, while 11.7% of their 12<sup>th</sup> grade counterparts reported binge drinking<sup>2</sup>.
- Alcohol was also the most reportedly used substance among adults, with 37% of adults ages 18-25 and 35% of adults 26 and older indicating use during the past 30 days in 2006<sup>3</sup>.
- Approximately 28% of Utah adults 18-25 indicated binge drinking in the past month in 2006<sup>3</sup>.
- In 2006, Utah experienced 2,674 alcohol and other drug related crashes that resulted in 1,966 injuries and 68 fatalities<sup>4</sup>.
- Between 2000 and 2006 the average number of alcohol related motor vehicle crashes resulting in death was approximately 59, resulting in an average of nearly 67 fatalities per year<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>2</sup>According to the 2007 Utah Student Health and Risk Protection Survey

<sup>3</sup>According to the 2005-06 National Survey of Drug Use and Health

<sup>4</sup>Utah Department of Highway Safety, Crash Report 2006